

(xiii) Give the soldier a chance to consult with a legal assistance attorney if he or she desires. However, the commander should ensure that this is not used as a delaying tactic. Where appropriate, a support payment plan should be initiated without delay.

(xiv) Urge soldiers thinking about divorce to seek legal advice from a legal assistance attorney. Also, advise the soldier to ensure an amount of support is included in the court order for their children. This action may help to prevent future disputes.

(xv) Ensure that the soldier is not receiving BAQ at the "with dependents" rate when not entitled to it. (See § 584.7.)

(xvi) Ask the soldier about his or her intentions. Give the soldier the chance to furnish a voluntarily signed statement admitting or denying the complaint and stating his or her intentions.

(xvii) Send complaints received to the soldier's new duty station if he or she has been reassigned. Advise the complainant of the soldier's reporting date and the unit address to which correspondence should be sent. If proper, give the complainant a copy of DA Form 5460-R.

(3) Advise the complainant courteously and promptly—

(i) Of the Army policy in suitable areas of concern.

(ii) Of the soldier's intentions, if the soldier allows release of the information.

(iii) That personal problems outside the requirements of this regulation must be resolved in court if the parties cannot agree.

(4) If proper to the situation, remind complainant of other helping agencies on post, such as the chaplain and Army Community Service. These agencies can give timely, interim help to meet immediate needs pending a more permanent resolution of the problem.

(5) Retain the statements allowing or forbidding release of information to the complainant and the soldier's intentions with the case file for future reference. Documents/records will be filed per AR 600-37 and the Army Functional Files System (AR 340-2 and AR 340-18).

(6) Monitor actions closely to ensure promises of support or other actions by soldiers to complainants are being met.

(7) Consider administrative or punitive action if proper.

(8) Inform the first level field grade commander of the soldier's repeated failure to meet the requirements of this regulation. Also, point out actions taken or contemplated to correct instances of nonsupport of family members or violations of child custody court orders.

§ 584.3 Paternity claims.

(a) *General.* (1) This chapter sets policy and procedures to process paternity claims against male Army soldiers. These procedures apply to claims made in the continental United States and in foreign countries. They apply to claims made by the claimant or on behalf of the claimant by attorneys, court officials, and others.

(2) Soldiers will be informed of paternity claims against them. Commanders will ensure that soldiers are advised of their legal rights and will advise soldiers of their moral and legal obligations in the matter. Soldiers admitting paternity will be urged to provide the necessary financial support to the child. Also, they will take any other action proper under the circumstances.

(b) Procedures for questioning soldiers about paternity claims upon receipt of a claim of paternity against a soldier, the commander will take the following actions:

(1) If there is evidence that an offense (for example, rape, indecent acts with a minor) may have been committed—

(i) Inform law enforcement officials.

(ii) Inform the soldier of the suspected offense. Before questioning, advise the soldier of his right to remain silent under article, 31, UCMJ, and his right to counsel under the Fifth Amendment.

(iii) Coordinate further action under this regulation with the SJA and law enforcement officials if appropriate.

(2) If there is no evidence that an offense was committed—

(i) Allow the soldier a chance to talk with a legal assistance attorney about his legal rights and obligations.

(ii) Require the soldier to complete and sign DA Form 5459-R. Information

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obtained from a system of records normally will not be released outside DOD without the soldier's consent. (See § 584.1(f).)

(iii) Inform the soldier of Army policy on the support of family members contained in this regulation.

(iv) Advise the soldier that a court order against him on the paternity claim, followed by a refusal to support a child born out of wedlock, could result in—

(A) Administrative or punitive action for violating this regulation.

(B) Garnishment of the soldier's pay account (§ 584.8).

(C) Initiation of an involuntary allotment against the soldier's pay account (§ 584.9).

(D) Contempt of court proceedings.

(v) Ask the soldier about his intentions. Give the soldier the chance to furnish a voluntarily signed statement admitting or denying the claim and stating his intentions.

(c) *Procedures for processing paternity claims.* (1) When one of the conditions in § 584.3(c)(1)(i) applies, a claimant will be advised of the statement in § 584.3(c)(1)(ii).

(i) A soldier—

(A) Refuses to answer questions about the paternity claim.

(B) Denies paternity.

(C) Admits paternity, but refuses to provide financial support.

(ii) No action can be taken on the claim of paternity in the absence of a court order. The court order must identify the soldier in question as the father of the child. Also, the court order must direct that the soldier provide financial support to the child.

(2) The commander will reply directly to the claimant or the attorney or court official she has authorized to act in her behalf. Information obtained from a system of records ordinarily will not be released outside DOD without the soldier's consent. (See § 584.1(f).)

(3) If the soldier admits paternity and agrees to provide financial support, then the commander will—

(i) Ask the claimant to provide a copy of the birth certificate.

(ii) Help the soldier in filing for an allotment or providing other financial aid.

(iii) Advise the claimant of the amount, effective date, and means of payment.

(iv) Help the soldier apply for BAQ at the "with dependents" rate, if applicable. (A birth certificate may be required.)

(v) Ensure an ID card is issued for the child after the relationship is documented, if proper. (A birth certificate may be required.) (See AR 640–3, para 3–3, for dependency criteria for ID cards.)

(vi) Allow the soldier to take ordinary leave in order to marry the claimant, if leave is requested for this purpose. However, the leave may be delayed if it will interfere with military requirements. Travel in connection with leave (including travel to and from overseas commands) is the responsibility of the soldier. Travel will be at no expense to the Government. If the marriage is to take place overseas, the soldier must comply with AR 600–240 and AR 608–61 in applying for authorization to marry (DA Form 2029–R) (Application for Authorization to Marry Outside of the United States).

(d) *Court orders.* If a court order of paternity and support has been issued, the commander will—

(1) Advise the soldier of the policy regarding support of family members.

(2) Advise the soldier that refusal to support his child born out of wedlock could result in—

(i) Garnishment of the soldier's pay account (§ 584.8).

(ii) Initiation of an involuntary allotment against the soldier's pay account (§ 584.9).

(iii) Contempt of court proceedings.

(iv) Administrative or punitive action for violating this regulation.

(3) Refer the soldier to a legal assistance attorney for advice on his legal rights and obligations.

(4) Help the soldier file an allotment or give other financial aid.

(5) Advise the claimant of the amount, effective date, and means of payment.

(6) Help the soldier apply for BAQ at the "with dependents" rate, if applicable.

(7) Ensure an ID card is issued for the child.

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(8) Consider administrative or punitive action if the soldier fails to obey the court order. (See § 584.1(d)(5)(viii).)

(9) Inform the first level field grade commander of the soldier's repeated failure to meet the requirements of this regulation. Also, point out actions taken or contemplated to correct instances of nonsupport of family members.

§ 584.4 Adoption proceedings.

(a) *General.* This chapter does not apply to those situations where a soldier is trying to adopt a child. It applies to those situations where another person is trying to adopt a legitimate or illegitimate child of a soldier. A child born in or out of wedlock normally may not be put up for adoption without the consent of the parents. Therefore, communications from a judge or court asking that a soldier appear at an adoption hearing must be answered.

(b) *Commander's actions.* The commander will—

(1) Inform the soldier or the inquiry.

(2) Urge the soldier to see a legal assistance attorney.

(3) Advise the court or judge, as appropriate, that—

(i) A request by the soldier for leave to attend an adoption hearing on (date) has been granted.

(ii) A request by the soldier for leave to attend an adoption hearing on (date), if made, would be approved..

(iii) Due to military requirements, the soldier cannot be granted leave to attend any court hearing until (date).

(iv) The soldier has stated that he or she is not the natural parent of the child.

(v) Since the soldier is not present because (give specific reasons), (for example, temporary duty or leave), a complete response cannot be made until (date).

(vi) The soldier is no longer in this command. The commander will provide the soldier's new military address to the court or judge. The commander then will send a copy of the inquiry to the soldier's new commander and advise the court or judge of this action.

(4) Furnish the soldier with a copy of the communication and the reply.

§ 584.5 U.S. citizenship determinations on children born out of wedlock in a foreign country.

(a) *General.* (1) A child born out of wedlock in a foreign country of an American citizen father and an alien mother does not automatically gain U.S. citizenship. The child must first be legally acknowledged by the father. Marriage to the mother may be required in order for the child to acquire U.S. citizenship. The father also must establish that he had at least 10 years of physical presence in the United States prior to the child's birth. Five of those years must have been spent in the United States after the father's 14th birthday. United States military service counts as physical presence in the United States. (See 8 U.S.C. 1101(c)(1), 1401(g), and 1409(c).) Whether the child gains the citizenship of its mother depends entirely upon the laws of the nation in which she is a citizen.

(2) A child born out of wedlock in a foreign country to an American citizen mother and an alien father or U.S. Citizen father gains U.S. citizenship at birth if the mother had been physically present in the United States for a continuous period of 1 year prior to the child's birth. (See 8 U.S.C. 1409(c).) The child will gain the citizenship of the father only if the laws of the nation of which the father is a citizen so provide.

(b) *Procedures for claiming U.S. citizenship rights.* (1) A father desiring rights of U.S. citizenship for a foreign-born child must legally acknowledge the child as his own and prepare a case file. Each case is decided on its own merits. The Department of State, if the child is in a foreign nation, or the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), if the child is in the United States, will make the decision. Documents that may be important in supporting a citizenship determination are listed below:

(i) Proof of father's citizenship. This may consist of any of the following:

(A) A certified copy of his birth certificate (with a raised seal of the registrar of births).

(B) A report of birth abroad (FS Form 240 (Report of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the United States)).

(C) A certificate of citizenship.

(D) A certificate of naturalization.

(E) A valid U.S. Passport.